



Short Term Assignment

Association of Southeast Asian Nations Alliance for Protected Areas Conservation

SOUTHEAST ASIA

2023-2026

Opportunity

The U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) is recruiting a multidisciplinary team of technical experts to contribute periodic technical expertise to an assessment and project planning effort during this summer and fall. An assessment trip to multiple Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries may take place in the fall for approximately two weeks. ITAP is looking for subject matter experts with the following experiences:

- Land use and land management to mitigate climate change
- Mapping of ecological resources and assessing their capacity for biologic carbon sequestration
- Monitoring, reporting, and accounting of carbon emissions from various ecosystems
- Restoration and conservation of peatlands, wetlands, mangroves, coastal zones, and other ecosystems with mitigation potential
- Creating resilience and adaptation measures for habitat conservation
- Large landscape/seascape connectivity conservation
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for conservation
- Traditional knowledge for nature-based climate solutions

Applicants may also be considered for project implementation phase after the initial project assessment.

BACKGROUND

DOI-ITAP provides assistance to foreign countries on subjects of Departmental expertise on a reimbursable basis (i.e., without appropriated funds). The program is currently operating across the globe with support from organizations such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U. S. Department of State. DOI-ITAP has managed multi-partner projects in over 50 countries since 1995.

This project will focus on sharing best practices in climate change mitigation through conservation and restoration of protected areas including national parks, wildlife refuges, national conservation lands, and monuments. These

areas are important sources of cultural heritage and biodiversity but also serve as significant “carbon sinks” which are able to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions through biologic carbon sequestration.

ASEAN countries collectively have hundreds of national parks and wildlife conservation areas with a rich array of national and cultural resources. Fifty of those national parks have been designated ASEAN Heritage Parks for their unique values. Nine of those ASEAN Heritage Parks are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. ASEAN countries, as a group, offer a diverse range of protected areas that include coral reefs, forests, and wildlife sanctuaries.

A variety of ecosystems capture carbon within the ASEAN protected areas like peatlands, wetlands, mangroves, and forests. Of the 10 ASEAN nations, Indonesia has the largest area of tropical peatlands in the world and the fourth largest extent of peatland overall, at over 20 million hectares. Its peatland landscapes hold an estimated 57.4 gigatons or 65% of ASEAN’s total peatland carbon. ASEAN member states are endowed with close to two million square kilometers of inland waters and wetlands which comprise 60% and 42% of the world’s tropical peatlands and mangrove forests, respectively. Furthermore, ASEAN accounts for 42% of the world’s total mangrove forests but have lost about 33% of its mangrove forests between 1980 and 2020, a decrease of more than 63,000sq km, according to the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB). Nations that comprise ASEAN have just around 43,000sq km of mangrove forests remaining. Southeast Asia is home to nearly 15% of the world’s tropical forests and is home to multiple biodiversity hotspots. However, the region has one of the highest rates of deforestation due to agricultural expansion, illegal logging, damaging charcoal and timber production, and other trends.

This project will be largely supported by USAID Sustainable Landscape funding and the activities proposed will focus on climate change mitigation, specifically greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction and carbon sequestration, per the 6-billion-ton CO₂ target outlined in the USAID Climate Strategy. Correspondingly, the project will help partner country institutions build better systems to conduct ecosystem inventories; monitor, report, and verify carbon emissions; and create incentives for stewardship, sound management practices, and landscape-wide solutions. The project will provide opportunities to exchange technical expertise in biological carbon sequestration or other nature-based solutions such as habitat conservation and restoration in order to meet partner country’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

All project outcomes will seek to achieve mitigation that can be sustained beyond the life of the activity while providing co-benefits to ecosystem services, biodiversity conservation, wildlife habitats, local incomes, land tenure and property rights, and/or food security to incentivize more financially sound, equitable, impactful, and long-lasting mitigation investments. Projects will seek to increase local co-stewardship, meaningful participation, and active leadership from Indigenous communities, women, youth, and other marginalized or underrepresented groups.

ASSIGNMENT

The purpose of this project is to share best practices in managing and restoring protected areas as a way to mitigate climate change as well as for cultural and natural preservation. Implementation of the project will be based on a detailed three-year workplan which will stem from an initial assessment. This assignment is to help launch the assessment phase of the project. Responsibilities will include:

- Virtual consultations with key partners in the region, including the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Regional Development Mission Asia (RDMA); RDMA’s ASEAN Office (which is embedded in the U.S. Mission to ASEAN); the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity; the new ASEAN Climate Change Centre; and the protected area management authorities in each participating ASEAN country, among others.
- Contribute to an assessment to determine the project’s scope, scale, approach, technical methods, and partner coordination.
- Periodic coordination meetings with the ITAP project team.
- Potential two-week assessment trip to multiple countries in Southeast Asia in the fall.

SCHEDULE

This assessment phase is expected to take place over the summer and fall of 2023. Team members can expect to dedicate around 5-10 hours monthly, depending on the phase of the assessment. Applicants will assist remotely and may be selected for a short-term assessment trip to Southeast Asia depending on applicant availability and project needs.

PRE- AND POST-TRIP DUTIES

There may be an opportunity for travel to the ASEAN region as part of this assessment. All travel and in-country logistics would be funded and arranged by DOI-ITAP.

The selected individuals will be expected to work in collaboration with DOI-ITAP project managers on the preparation of a project assessment and work plan, and participate in virtual meetings to discuss technical aspects of the project.

Within three weeks following any travel, the team will provide DOI-ITAP managers a brief report of trip events, evaluations made, and recommendations for future actions. NPS and USGS travelers will also submit this report to their respective Offices of International Affairs/Programs.

COSTS

DOI-ITAP will cover all costs associated with this assignment (e.g., round-trip airfare, lodging, meals, travel insurance, immunizations, official passport and visa fees, per diem, etc.). DOI team member salaries will be paid by their respective employing DOI agency for the duration of the assignment.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Competitive applicants for this assignment will:

- Demonstrate advanced technical expertise in one or more of the areas listed;
- Have demonstrated experience in project development with stakeholder input;
- Have experience collaborating with a multi-disciplinary team;
- Demonstrate some experience or knowledge of international conservation, preferably in the Southeast Asia region;
- Preference given to current or retired employee of DOI. Employees and retirees of other agencies are also encouraged to apply;

If you are selected for this assignment, you will be responsible for obtaining your supervisor's approval to participate, as well as additional approvals up your supervisory chain of command as necessary (see below).

HOW TO APPLY

Please email a cover letter and resume/CV (preferably as a single pdf document titled: "LastName_FirstName_ASEANAlliance") summarizing relevant experience, together with a note indicating supervisor approval (if applicable), to Kimberly_Crisafi@ios.doi.gov. Please use the subject line "Full Name_ASEAN Alliance for Protected Areas Conservation."

Applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than June 9th. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

All applicants must secure approval from their supervisors to apply for an ITAP assignment. Supervisors will then adhere to their Bureau requirements for any further approvals required by the Bureau. All NPS, BOR, and BLM applicants must copy their International Affairs POCs when they submit their applications to ITAP. A complete list of those POCs follows. In addition, NPS and FWS-OLE require the following:

- o All NPS applicants should also copy their applications to Rudy D'Alessandro (rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov) in the NPS Office of International Affairs.
- o If you are employed with FWS/OLE, please do not respond to this recruitment. FWS/OLE recruitment for ITAP assignments are being handled through FWS/OLE HQ.

Bureau	Contact	Email	Telephone
BIA	Joaquin Gallegos	joaquin_gallegos@ios.doi.gov	
BLM	David Howell	dohowell@blm.gov	503-884-6626
BOR	Omero Martinez	omartinez@usbr.gov	202-513-0557
BOR	Jeff Morris	jmorris@usbr.gov	303-445-3373
FWS	Lillian Moore	lillian_moore@fws.gov	703-358-2587
BSEE	Julie Fleming	julie.fleming@bsee.gov	202-208-3827
NPS	Rudy D'Alessandro	rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov	202-354-1805
BOEM	Emily Lindow	emily.lindow@boem.gov	202-513-0825
OSMRE	Sterling Rideout	srideout@osmre.gov	202-208-2868
USGS	Kevin Kunkel	kkunkel@usgs.gov	703-648-6206
ONRR	Chris Mentasti	chris.mentasti@onrr.gov	202-513-0614
OS	Tabitha Anderson	tabitha_anderson@ios.doi.gov	202-208-3624
OWF	Amy Krause	amy_krause@ios.doi.gov	202-570-2233
DOI Passports and Visas	Tiffany Cephas	passports@ios.doi.gov	202-208-5292
DOI Passports and Visas	Crystal Franklin	passports@ios.doi.gov	202-208-5292

Please note that ITAP travel does not require use of bureau charge cards and will not count towards bureau 'travel caps'.

APPLICATION PROCESS

A short list of candidates will be interviewed via MS Teams. All candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process by email. **The position is open to all applicants that meet the stated requirements. If applicants do not receive an email acknowledgement of receipt of their application, please inquire with the Project Manager listed above.**